

HELD IN SLAVERY.

Result of the Investigation of the Anderson Grand Jury.

A PLAIN RECITAL OF FACTS

Direct Charges Preferred Against Those Guilty of False Imprisonment and of Barbarity.

The special committee of the Anderson County Grand Jury appointed by Judge Benet to investigate certain charges against large land owners in that county made its report last Thursday to the court.

The committee says that in the case of Magistrate J. H. Gilmer he found that for some time past he has been in the habit of issuing warrants and causing arrests and frequently committing accused persons to jail without ever entering a case upon his docket.

We find that on Feb. 19, 1901, after this investigation was begun, the said J. H. Gilmer paid to the county treasurer the sum of \$53.20 to cover these amounts.

Regarding the arrest of the Negro Will Hull, which you are directed to the court to investigate, we find that a warrant was issued by Magistrate Gilmer for the arrest of this Negro upon a affidavit of A. T. Newell, charging him for a violation of labor contract.

The principal work of this committee has been the investigation of the stockades of the county and the abuses of laborers under tyrannous contracts that has grown out of the farming out of convicts and the working of free laborers with them.

A most careful inquiry failed to reveal that any general abuse of the laboring class exists in this county, so that our work soon narrowed down to those places where stockades existed and free laborers were employed.

We were unable to find any abuses at the farm of J. B. Watson. He has a stockade and a number of convicts, but we found no evidence that free laborers were put in the stockades and worked in line with the convicts, or subjected to any illegal restraint or abuse.

The same thing was true at the farm of R. B. Allen, where it was found that laborers agreed to work under guard and be looked up at night, but his own evidence and that of all the laborers so far as we could ascertain, was that these provisions had never been enforced.

Our first investigations at this place were met by a statement from the negroes that they were satisfied with their treatment, but their manner indicated coercion and subsequently we made further investigations which convinced us that J. E. Miller, and his overseer, J. A. Emerson, had been guilty of whipping negroes, looking them up at night, working them under guard and putting shackles upon them.

Among these unfortunates were John Harrison, Will Wright, Warren Sloan and Liege Jones. We found several of Mr. Miller's contracts left blank as to the time of service and amount to be paid, though the contracts were duly signed and witnessed.

In the case of Warren Sloan, he seemed to have been arrested by J. R. Miller and another man, whose name we could not ascertain, near Central, in P. O. county. There is testimony that no warrant was exhibited, if any existed, but he was handcuffed and taken to Miller's stockade and kept there until this investigation began.

In many respects the most remarkable case coming under our notice is that of Elias McGehee, who has never a stockade and no convicts, but who built a stockade and kept in it several convicts as prisoners. His contracts provide that the laborers shall be worked under guard and looked up at night and there was abundant evidence to show that he had looked up in the stockade, worked under guard and whipped his laborers.

Among these abuses were Wesley Norman, Handy Earle, Yancey Smith, George Tilly, John Clinkscales, Clarence Gaillard, Jervis Wood, Louis Under, Morris Jordan. Some of these were arrested and sentenced and signed contracts after being put under guard and looked up at night, as charged by Elias McGehee of stealing corn, was brought to Anderson handcuffed and after he had signed a contract, but before any trial, turned over to W. Q. Hammond.

W. Q. Hammond runs a large farm in this county and employs a considerable number of both State convicts and "free" laborers. His contracts are under guard and looked up at night, and they suffer this illegal imprisonment and more, for the evidence shows that a number of these unfortunates have been locked under guard and on Sundays and have been shackled and whipped. Among those who suffered these things at the hands of Mr. Hammond and his overseers, Wm. Bailey, James Martin and Day, are the following: Thomas Abernethy, Pink Rogers, James Clifton, James Sawyer, Tom Parks, Charley Johnson and John Clinkscales.

They had been indicted last fall for gambling, had been taken out of jail on bond by Mr. Hammond, and kept at his farm without trial until they had their backs to the sheriff's office and then back to the sheriff's office.

We think that the facts disclosed demand that W. Q. Hammond, James Martin, and Day, should be brought by the grand jury for the violation of law above mentioned and we so recommend.

J. S. Fowler, who first used the contract providing for free laborers to be treated as convicts, worked under guard and looked up at night, a considerable number of convicts and a number of the so-called "free" laborers. He has two stockades, one of which is under the supervision of James Cook and which was formerly managed by Willis McGehee. The other is under the charge of Robert Brown.

Willis McGehee, James Cook, Levi Thomas, George Thomas and Mike Robbins should have presentments made against them by the grand jury for whipping different convicts and free laborers. Willis McGehee was especially cruel. It was testified that he had given the negro Byrlis Arter 100 lashes on one occasion and that he whipped Robert Brown most severely and cruelly and on one occasion shot five bullets pasting through Wheeler's hat. The testimony goes to show that George Thomas shot at Dock Freely and that he was also ready at the whippings.

Andrew Dobbis was found to be suffering from rheumatism which he says was brought on by being compelled to stand almost waist deep in mud and water in cold weather ditching. He was arrested by A. M. Bailey, who has been acting as a sort of constable for J. S. Fowler but was never tried. J. A. Rice is a negro of rather weak mind who was brought by being compelled from J. S. Fowler's stockade in this county. Upon being brought here it was found that he was not the man he was suspected of being but nevertheless after being kept for several days in the stockade he entered into one of the labor contracts and has been in the stockade for several months, though unwillingly there. A number of "free" laborers have left Mr. Fowler's farm since these investigations were first begun but some unwilling ones were still in the stockades when we visited them.

A TRUE INDICTMENT

Of the United States in Her Dealing With Cuba.

"LIARS AND HYPOCRITES"

Is What France and Spain Truthfully Say We Are, Our Country Disgraced Before Nations

The dealing of the United States with Cuba is infamous. If you don't think so read what we print below from the Columbia State:

The Latin races are accustomed to sneer at the hypocrisy of the Anglo-Saxon. Frenchman, Spaniard and Italian regard each as a characteristic of British and American expression, and they marvel much at the curious bent of mind which causes the men of these nations to cloak all their evil purposes with the pretence of high and holy motives. Even more do they marvel at this because the cloak is threadbare from overmuch use and utterly fails to conceal that which it attempts to cover.

The negroes whom we found confined in the stockade were composed largely of a class of helpless debtors who are subject to indictment for petty offense, and who could not be successfully worked under ordinary contracts.

They are men who have no property, and men who evade their debts unless forced to pay them. Against them the process of a civil court is worthless; that of the criminal court under existing laws is inadequate. Something should be done by the legislature to grade the punishment of this class according to the offense. But the worst of it is that it is in the defect of the provisions of the law that so much of its enforcement. It has come to be a settled policy in this county that indictment for violation of contract and for disposing of property under lien should be compromised, and not tried.

When the United States went to war with Spain in order to "liberate" Cuba, Spaniards and Frenchmen, relying upon their generalization of the Anglo-Saxon character, insisted that they would be content with the Teller resolution and would not demand that a way would be found to hold the Cubans in subjection to the conquerors. Time has proven that they were right.

They are enacted to prevent public wrong, and when a prosecution has once been instituted and the power of the criminal court invoked, the question of private recompense should disappear, and the public interest alone should be considered. While this may result in occasional hardships, it is the only safe policy. Abuses will otherwise grow up until the criminal courts are degraded into machines for private gain, and often for extortion and oppression. In our judgment it should be a crime to compromise any case after indictment found with a view of private gain.

Other our condemn too severely that other fruitful source—in fact, the demand for a change in the law, the leasing out of convicts to work on private farms. Evils already detailed are too eloquent to necessitate a discussion to prove this. Such a system should not be tolerated after its results have been exposed as in this county. It is a source of trouble to the grand jury investigations and exposures would disturb the labor conditions to such an extent as to create trouble in this State. We do not believe that it is true, but if it were we would not hesitate to declare the evils we find and the demand for their removal.

The Moscow correspondent of the London Daily Mail says: "During the recent heavy snowstorms 50 men were sent to clear the snow out of a railway cutting near Wolovo, on the Russian frontier. They were just leaving the cutting when the train came down at full speed and crushed about 30 men into shapeless masses, their clothing clinging to the axles and stopping the train. Inquiry shows that the engine driver and all the guards were drunk."

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TAX MACHINERY.

The Changes in the Law as to Making Returns

THE ACTS RECENTLY PASSED

What is Now Provided as to the Requirements for Insurance Companies Working in This State.

The following is the text of the act passed at the recent session of the general assembly in regard to the making of returns of property for taxation, a measure which is of concern to the people of the entire State:

An act to amend section 4 of an act entitled "An act to further provide for the return of property for taxation," approved the 2nd day of March, A. D. 1897, so as to make township assessors, equalizers as well as assessors of property.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of the State of South Carolina, that section 4 of an act entitled "An act to further provide for the return of property for taxation," approved the 2nd day of March, A. D. 1897, be amended by striking out in line 20 the words "but not" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "or," and by inserting on line 40 between the words "greater" and "less" the words "or one hundred dollars or more," and by striking out the words "and" and "said" in line 27 of the section, to wit: "but they shall not reduce the aggregate value of real and personal property below the aggregate value thereof as shown on the county auditor," so that said section 4, when so amended shall read as follows:

Section 4. The township board of commissioners and special board of assessors shall meet annually on the first Tuesday in March, or as soon thereafter as practicable, and shall determine the place for the purpose of performing the duties devolved upon them. It shall be their duty to carefully consider the returns and lists laid before them by the county auditor and if necessary to compare the same with the tax returns of the preceding year or previous year or years. They shall diligently seek for and discover all property, both real and personal, in their respective tax districts not previously returned by the owner or personal representative thereof, and the valuation by the county auditor and thereupon it shall be their duty to list the same for taxation in the name of the owner or person to whom it is taxable. It shall then

enter upon their respective districts, and furnish them. And they shall have the right in performing their duties thereunder to increase or to lower the valuation of any property real or personal as fixed by the county auditor, or as returned by any person; and it shall not be deemed that the returns so increased were intentionally or unintentionally false, or whether the property whose value is so raised was intentionally or unintentionally returned at less than its fair cash value by the county auditor, and upon the lists made out by him, when the valuation fixed by them "but they shall not reduce the aggregate value of real and personal property below the aggregate value thereof as returned to the county auditor," said returns and lists, with said valuation, to be by them laid before the county auditor on or before the 31st day of March, or on or before the 31st day of March, 1897, the same to be laid before the county auditor on or before the 31st of March. Provided, however, that real estate shall be valued and assessed by the county auditor, and that the valuation of real estate is by law required to be returned, except that said boards may in any year value and assess any real estate and improvements thereon which they may ascertain or discover had not previously been returned or assessed by the county auditor, and the valuation and assessments of any property so returned and assessed by the owners or his agents, or whoever any property is valued and assessed to taxation which has not been previously returned, it shall be the duty of the county auditor on or before the fourth Monday in March of the year in which the valuation and assessment is made, to give to the owner or agent of such property written notice thereof, which notice may be served upon such owner or his agent personally, or by mailing the same to such person or his agent at his last known place of residence, and such owner or his agent, if he objects to such valuation and assessment, shall have the right to appeal to the county board of commissioners sitting as the county board of equalization, which appeal shall be heard by said county board.

The account of the county auditor for the necessary stationery and postage, to enable him to give the notice herein required, shall be a valid claim against the county, and shall be paid as other county claims are paid. Nothing in this act contained shall constitute an interference with the duty of the county auditor to add 50 per cent. to the value of personal property as a penalty, as provided in sections 279, 295 and 297, of the Revised Statutes of 1893, nor with the duties of the county auditor as prescribed in section 290 of the Revised Statutes of 1893.

Section 2. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act, be and the same are hereby repealed.

INSURANCE COMPANIES. And here is the act amending the law in regard to insurance companies, throwing further protection around the policy holders:

An act to amend an act entitled "An act to amend sections 1 and 2 of an act to amend the law in regard to insurance companies or association to be possessed of one hundred thousand dollars surplus or capital, or in lieu thereof to have one hundred thousand dollars on deposit with some State for the benefit of all policy holders, or in lieu thereof

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WHAT IT COSTS.

Congress Expended Nearly a Billion and Half Dollars.

IMPERIALISM COMES HIGH.

Congressman Livingston Says That the Half That is Contemplated Has Not Been Put in Operation.

Representative Cannon, chairman of the house committee on appropriation, and Representative Livingston, the senior Democratic member of the committee, have prepared statements of the appropriations of the 56th congress.

Both place the total appropriations for the congress at \$1,440,062,545, placing these for the first session at \$710,150,862 and for the second a \$729,911,683. Mr. Cannon publishes a table showing the expenditures of the previous congress at \$1,568,212,637 and Mr. Livingston makes a comparison with the 54th congress which appropriated \$1,044,329,273.

In his statement Mr. Cannon says: "Of the total appropriations made at this session, at least \$30,000,000 will not, in the light of past experience, be expended. This considerable margin between actual expenditures and appropriations is not only a credit to the sum total of expenditures during the fiscal year 1902 not exceeding \$699,311,683. This sum includes \$33,000,000 on account of the sinking fund requirements for the fiscal year 1902, a case for congress, under the terms of the law, will be not only to such extent as surplus revenues in the treasury may permit. After meeting the full ordinary requirements of the public service under the appropriations which have been made, there will surely remain sufficient revenues for 1902 to meet not less than \$300,000,000 of the requirements of the sinking fund."

"The most marked increase indicated in the appropriations for ordinary expenses of the government made for the two years 1901 and 1902 at the two sessions of this congress over those of the two preceding years 1899 and 1900, provided for by the 55th congress, is for the postal service. The necessity of these increased appropriations to meet large business demands is referred to as a cause for congratulation. The appropriations for the year 1902, \$150,091 by this congress under those provided for by its predecessor and this has rendered possible a reduction of taxes in the sum of \$41,000,000.

"With a continuance of the wise administration enjoyed by the country, there is every reason to anticipate a further reduction of public expenditures."

"The 56th congress is the first congress appropriating for the support of the government since the close of the so-called Spanish American war. The difference between the appropriations made by the 56th congress and those made by the 54th congress are \$395,482,272.

During the session just closed the demands of the people, through their representatives, for a more extensive construction of the Nicaragua canal, have gone unheeded, and those for new public buildings have been persistently denied. The river and harbor bill has been permitted to fail. The payment of just claims of honest people against the government has been almost entirely neglected. The most casual examination of the table makes comment practically unnecessary. It shows that the army for each of the two years prior to the Spanish-American war cost a little over \$230,000,000, and but little more than \$100,000,000 was covered by the 54th congress, while for the two years since that war—1901 and 1902—it cost \$115,000,000, or \$230,000,000 in large sums out of appropriations appropriated by the 56th congress during the 55th congress.

The navy cost for the two years 1897 and 1898, \$65,362,000, while for the years 1901 and 1902 the appropriations reached nearly \$144,000,000. For the payment of pensions the appropriations show an increase of nearly \$5,000,000, and for the support of the civil service, \$10,000,000 more.

"In a word, this table shows that the price to the people of the policy of this administration that has been thrust upon them by the Republican party, in round numbers, \$400,000,000 within a period of two years, and the half that is contemplated has not yet been put in operation."

Warning.

The secretary of state asks that attention be called to the fact that a law was passed by the legislature preventing any officer from discharging the duties of his position until he had given bond and had been commissioned by the trustees, members of State boards, constables, etc., as considered officers under the law, so are other members of boards of various characters who are provided for by the legislature. They get but little premium or mileage, but they cannot leave their offices until they have been duly commissioned by the secretary of state. They do not have to pay any for this commission; it is a mere matter of form. A great many members of various kinds of boards have neglected to carry out the provisions of the law, and their attention is called to the fact. The new act does not make it unlawful to fail to file the oaths and get a commission before attempting to discharge the duties indicated.—The State.

Decided Decrease.

The clerk of the State board of pensioners stated Tuesday that the approved rolls of pensioners had been sent in by most of the county boards. It is noteworthy that these rolls show a decided decrease in the number of pensioners as compared with last year's list. This is probably due to the operation of the provisions of the new act now in force throwing greater safeguards around the disbursement of the pension appropriation. Despite the fact that many of the county boards have not yet filed their lists with the secretary of state, the lists will have to be returned for revision, owing to defects. This of course, will of necessity delay the meeting of the State board, and consequently checks will likely reach the pensioners later than usual.—The State.

Forest Fires.

The winds of the past few days have been productive of very serious and extensive forest fires in various portions of this and Lexington counties and much loss of property has resulted. News of the fires in this county reached Columbia Wednesday. They have been very destructive in the proportion and saw mill sections near Killian's on the line of the Seaboard towards Camden. After hard fighting the citizens managed to check the onward rush of the flames, but not before much valuable timber had been consumed. Over Lexington considerable damage of this character has also been done. Forestry night the glare of forest fires has been visible from high points in this city.

In a Bad Way.

Minnesota has a novelty in Blair County, which is bankrupt and in a condition bordering on anarchy. A court decision which allows logging companies to avoid the payment of back taxes has caused the trouble. The county has no money and no fuel for its offices, and merchants have long since refused to accept warrants. The county judge and jurors have gone out on strike and none of the offices have been closed out yet. The sheriff, who has been caring for his prisoners at his own expense, threatens to turn them loose so that he can hunt for a job that will support his family. The legislature is being supplanted for aid.

Convicts Mutinied.

A dispatch from Florence to a news agency, says a serious mutiny at convicts has occurred at Santa Caterina prison, resulting in the military being called out and 10 of the convicts being killed and 57 wounded. It is attributed to poor food.

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In a Bad Way.

Minnesota has a novelty in Blair County, which is bankrupt and in a condition bordering on anarchy. A court decision which allows logging companies to avoid the payment of back taxes has caused the trouble. The county has no money and no fuel for its offices, and merchants have long since refused to accept warrants. The county judge and jurors have gone out on strike and none of the offices have been closed out yet. The sheriff, who has been caring for his prisoners at his own expense, threatens to turn them loose so that he can hunt for a job that will support his family. The legislature is being supplanted for aid.

Convicts Mutinied.

A dispatch from Florence to a news agency, says a serious mutiny at convicts has occurred at Santa Caterina prison,